

heavier than most other guides available. While its size might be unappealing for those who like to travel light in the field, it is this detail and accuracy that sets this book apart from other guides.

There are a number of adjustments that have been made to this edition that are intended to make the guide more user-friendly. The quick reference guide, included for the first time in the previous edition, is now spread over twice the number of pages and birds are clearly separated by the environments in which they are most likely seen. This is a vast improvement, and it now serves its purpose of making navigating to appropriate pages much easier. Similarly, the addition of illustrations to the family introductions in the final pages of the book enhances the section. Amateur bird watchers are likely to benefit from these improvements the most; the placement of species in taxonomic order throughout field guides is not necessarily an intuitive arrangement for many. In contrast, the helpfulness of the new section for vagrant species is questionable. When they were to-

gether with related species, and labelled as vagrants, differences were easy to identify. Now, comparison of vagrants with similar species requires plenty of page turning.

The introductory section provides valuable information to first time bird watchers, with basic tips for using binoculars, description of body shapes and parts, explanation of technical names, and advice on the best features to observe that will help with identification. Yet, throughout the whole field guide, it is the illustrations that offer the most. They are enjoyable, informative and inspiring for bird enthusiasts of all levels of experience.

This new edition of Pizzey and Knight's book delivers an outstanding identification resource that continues to be my favourite field guide for Australian birds.

Emma Carlos

School of Life and Environmental Sciences  
Deakin University, 221 Burwood Hwy  
Burwood, Victoria 3125

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## Planting for wildlife: a practical guide to restoring native woodlands

By Nicola Munro and David Lindenmayer

Publisher: CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood, Victoria, 2011, 84 pages, 74 figures, paperback. ISBN 9780643103122. RRP \$39.95.

This beautifully illustrated and well written book focuses on the practical aspects for the revegetation of woodlands, with chapters sequentially outlining why it is important to revegetate, where to revegetate, what the layout and composition of a planting should be, how to revegetate, how to maintain and manage a planting and how a planting changes over time. Each chapter begins with a summary outlining the focus of the chapter and the main points, and includes boxed text that may tell the tale of a success story or provide useful information that further explains a term or concept. For example, Box 1.4 defines the term 'ecosystem services' and explains that these can be divided into four groups: provisioning services, regulat-

ing services, supporting services and cultural services. Box 2.4 explains what is meant by connectivity and why it is an important environmental objective. Box 3.1 discusses the effectiveness of windbreaks and why Australian native trees such as eucalypts and casuarinas are better suited for construction of windbreaks than dense conifers such as cypress. Other boxes discuss such topics as: Australia's biodiversity decline, enhancement plantings, seed collection, what a weed is, paddock tree decline, breeding birds in plantings, and more. These boxes ensure the book not only explains how to plant for wildlife but provides the information needed to understand the underlying ecologic principals as well as the reasoning as

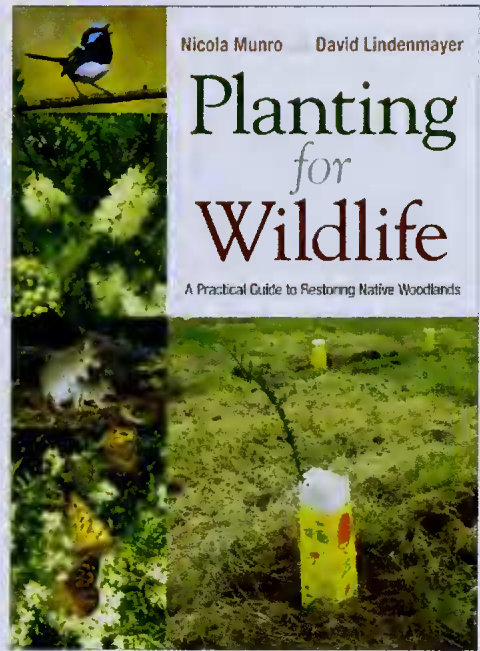
to why revegetation and planting for wildlife is important. Furthermore, the boxes are interesting snippets in their own right.

The introductory chapter discusses the importance of revegetating the Australian landscape. In keeping with the rest of the book, it is user friendly and keeps terminology to a minimum, providing a table explaining terms widely used in revegetation literature. The benefits of revegetation are listed comprehensively in a table along with an explanation of how this is achieved and include improvement of water quality, reduction of salinity, provision of habitat for wildlife, and mitigation of climate change. The chapter finishes with an explanation as to why the book was written, with the authors stating they 'felt it was important for there to be a short pithy and practical guide available that focuses closely on the key aspects of revegetation'. They have succeeded!

The second chapter deals with where to revegetate at the regional, landscape and farm scale. The latter scale received greatest focus, which is understandable as it is the landholder who makes most of the decisions regarding where to revegetate. The importance of targeting existing patches of remnant native vegetation for protection is highlighted. New plantings can connect these patches, enabling support of a wider diversity and larger populations of wildlife as well as rendering corridors for wildlife movement.

Determination of appropriate size, width and shape of a planting, which species to plant and how dense to make plantings are discussed in chapter three. Ecosystem restoration plantings have greater biodiversity gains than woodlot plantings. Indeed, species of wildlife are attracted to the former plantings years earlier than they are to woodlot plantings. Also, did you know that sparse plantings on hilltops support many reptile species while dense plantings do not?

Chapter 4 details the different methods to establish plantings, where to source plants and how to prepare a site. It discusses weed control and fencing. Chapter 5 details the ongoing management of a planting and includes a discussion on the significance of retaining dead standing or fallen trees and shrubs. These may look untidy to some people but are vital for a



considerable number of birds, reptiles and the oft forgotten fungi, bryophytes and insects as well as to nutrient cycling.

Chapter 6 explores the expected changes in a planting over time, how this can be enhanced to provide for wildlife with further planting or erection of nest boxes in lieu of hollows, or exclusion of pests such as the European Honeybee. Were you aware that attaching carpet to the roof of a nest box would prevent bees from establishing a hive? This wonderful book has many gold nuggets of information and is well worth buying.

Finally, each chapter includes a list of references, providing readers with a resource, should they desire to investigate further this important and fascinating topic of planting for wildlife.

**Maria Gibson**  
School of Life and Environmental Sciences  
Deakin University  
221 Burwood Highway, Vic 3125